FRUIT GROWERS' NEWS -LETTER - JULY, 1938.

This News-Letter Replaces the Maryland Fruit Grower for July.

That Summer Field Meeting

Plans have been made for the annual summer field meeting. Mr. G. William Gardenhour, President of the Maryland State Horticultural Society has invited the fruit growers of Maryland or any other State, to visit the orchard, managed by himself and his brother, Raymond. On Tuesday, July 19, the group will assemble at the Gardenhour Brothers orchard at 10:30 a.m. The orchard is on the northern edge of Smithsburg, on a good road. The orchard and all equipment will be open for inspection. Before lunch, the contour or terraced orchards will be visited, and the work will be explained . Then lunch will be served at the packing house. This lunch will be furnished by the Smithsburg Community Association and there will be sandwiches, ice cream and hot and cold drinks at a reasonable charge. Growers may bring their own lunch if they desire.

After lunch, the subjects of soil erosion control, and soil conservation will be discussed briefly by Mr.O.C.Bruce, State Coordinator for Maryland, and Mr. Paul E. Nystrom, Soil Conservation Director from the University of Maryland. Then there will be an open meeting for discussion of orchard problems, and any problems that affect the industry as a whole.

The main idea is to have growers visit among themselves, and get to know each other. No elaborate program has been arranged, but we hope it will be interesting. There will be some educational exhibits.

How to Get There — Smithsburg is 10 miles east of Hagerstown. Growers from the west may come from Hagerstown via Cavetown Road. Those from the east may best come via U.S. Route 40 (National Pike) to Boonsboro, and on the west end of Boonsboro, where the trolley tracks cross the pike, turn right and follow this road through Beaver Creek, Cavetown, and Smithsburg. The roads will be marked from Boonsboro and Cavetown. The family will enjoy the trip and the day, so plan to bring them along.

Apple Advertising

Appalachian Apples, the grower-supported plan for advertising apples grown in the Shenandoah-Cumberland section, is signing up subscriptions for the coming year, and from all reports, the campaign is going along very well. If properly supported, this organization can develop into even more than an advertising set-up, and might prove, in time, to be an excellent way in which to bring the growers of the several states closer together for their common good. At any rate, its function, now, is to tell people that the apples that we grow are really good and that they should use more of them. Any growers who want information about Appalachian Apples should write either Carroll R. Miller, Martinsburg, W. Va., or A.F.Vierheller, College Park,Maryland.

Believe It or Not

An average apple tree absorbs about 15 to 20 tons of water a year. Actual experiments have shown that 40 apple trees will take up 760 tons of water annually, or about 7 acre inches of rainfall. (A gallon of water weighs 8-1/3 pounds at 50° Fahrenheit). That's a lot of water, and accounts for the great stress that is being laid on soil improvement and erosion control.

Another Visit

In the past, it has been the pleasure of Maryland growers to have visitors from other States. The growers from Montgomery and Chester counties, Pennsylvania are planning to visit some sections of Cecil and Harford counties, Maryland, with stops at the Lloyd Balderston and the C.E. Bryan orchards. Their plans are tentative, but the date will probably be July 27th. We know that they will enjoy their trip toMaryland, and we are certain that they will be impressed with the orchards that they plan to visit.

Bruises

According to the dictionary, the word "bruise" has several synonyms,such as:- batter, contuse, injure, pound, break, pestle or maltreat. During the course of the picking and packing season, fruit gets all of these things done to it, and perhaps more. At best, the harvesting operations are an ordeal, and it is a lucky apple or peach that comesout unharmed after being swung around in a picking bag, dumped into a field crate, slammed onto a field truck, banged over a rough road, pitched onto a grading table, rattled through a washer or polisher, thumped over a grader, dropped or slung into a bin, where it collides head-on with other fruits, then is pushed headlong into a basket where it is squeezed and racked down. Of course, there is still that ride to the storage, and then to heap insult upon injury, the packed baskets are used as stair-steps to get up on, to pile other baskets higher on the storage floor. Perhaps there is exaggeration about all of this, but seriously, this bruising of fruit is a costly thing. As long as people buy fruit with their eyes, the appearance of fruit is going to be important. There was plenty of bruised fruit in storage this past winter, and it was evident in the markets, also.

Our present crop of fruit looks fine, on the trees, and it has been sprayed, thinned and fertilized. It is good business to go further and get it into the market in the best possible shape. Examine the grading machinery for any chances of bruising fruit, and pad any rough or sharp places. Caution the pickers and handlers, sorters and runners to be careful. There is always going to be some bruising, but it should be kept at a minimum. Again we can use that old slogan of a well-known paint advertisement - "Save the surface and you save all."

"New Fruits" Show

The Stark-Burbank Institute of Horticulture has announced a National New Fruits Show, at Louisana, Missouri, on August 18th to 20th. The idea of the Show, is to encourage growers to show any unusual seedling fruits or bud sports that they may have found in their orchards. The exhibits include early apples and pears, berries, grapes, peaches, plums and cherries. A show for late apples and pears will be held next November. Attractive premiums are awarded. Growers interested may obtain entry blanks from A.F.Vierheller, College Park,Maryland. If fruit is mature, now, don't wait. Pack it carefully, enclose name and address and send it to the address as underlined above, then send entry blank later.

Whitewash Mixtures

From time to time, growers have asked about lime washes suitable to reduce danger of sunscald. In "Hoosier Horticulture" for June,1938, it is stated that Purdue Orchards are using one quart of skim milk, adding enough hydrated lime to form a thick paste. This will last on trees for several months after application, but an additional 2 ounces of raw linseed oil will help it stick even better. Out in Oregon, the growers use four pounds of quicklime slaked in water, and while still hot add 2½ quarts of skim milk, and enough water to bring it to proper consistency for application with a brush.

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Extension Horticulturist.

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